



AN CANACH



President's Quarterly Message—Louis Russell

From the President's Desk September 2024

Dear Society Members

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. Fall is fast approaching as the season is beginning to change. Temperatures are beginning to come down and some of the trees are beginning to show some signs of color change. I enjoy fall. It is a good time of the year. As a Society, there are a number of issues that need to be highlighted and discussed as we approach the end of 2024.

The Henderson Stone. In the late 1600's, Clan Henderson served as the bodyguard and piper for Clan MacDonald in Glencoe. The Henderson Stone marks the location where in 1692 a Henderson piper sounded the alarm of an upcoming attack now known as the Glencoe Massacre. As a result of the attack, many MacDonalds and Hendersons were killed. The slaughter would have been worse if it were not for the bravery of the Henderson piper sounding the alarm allowing many to escape to the surrounding hills. Today, the Henderson Stone is located on private land, but Scottish law allows public access to the site. Clan Henderson Society supports maintenance of the site ensuring that visitors are able to visit the location and reflect on the past events. Recently, the local Outdoor Access Officer contacted Clan Henderson informing us that access to the site needs to be improved. The proposed project includes installation of a new gate and improvements to the walking path leading to the stone. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$16,500 USD (£12,700). We are looking for a grant(s) to offset the cost of the project, but Clan Henderson Society will have to fund the remainder of the project. We should have adequate funds in reserve but any donation to support this project would be greatly appreciated. Some members have already pledged donations to support the project. Details of the project are available for anyone interested.

Annual Board Meeting and AGM. The Annual Board meeting is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday October 26 by Zoom. An agenda and exact time will be announced in early October. In addition, the Annual General Meet-

Continues Page 2

ing is scheduled for November 2 and will be hosted by Mary Lane Henderson in South Carolina at the Charleston Scottish Games. Details of the agenda and planned events will be sent out as the planning committee finalize details.

Scholarship Program Endowment Fund. The Advancement Committee is developing an Investment Policy to guide the Scholarship Program Endowment. These guidelines will provide a framework for fund management insuring safe and transparent management of the fund. A Finance committee, reporting to the Board of Directors, will oversee investments. Investments will be conservative in nature insuring long term support and growth of the Clan Henderson Scholarship Program. The Policy will be presented during the Annual Board Meeting and reviewed during the AGM. Everyone is encouraged to consider supporting this effort.

VP Genealogy. LaRhee Henderson has served Clan Henderson Society for a number of years as the VP Genealogy. During her tenure she has helped many members trace their family lineage. Drawing from her professional career as a college professor, she prepared many tutorial programs teaching others some of the "tricks of the trade" allowing them to investigate their heritage on their own. LaRhee has recently resigned this position. Join me in thanking LaRhee for her service to the Society. Finally, please contact me if you would be interested in filling this important role in the Society. As always, thank you for supporting Clan Henderson Society.

Louis Russell
President

The Henderson Stone (Clach Eanruig in [Scottish Gaelic](#)) is a [granite boulder](#) in a field in the [Glencoe](#) (Carnoch) area of [Scotland](#). Clach Eanruig is translated alternatively as Henderson



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

South East	5474	MacMILLIAN	Scott Henderson	Spartanburg	SC	USA
Mid South	5475	SIMPSON	Nicole Henderson	Corryton	TN	USA
South East	5476	HEMBREE	David	Kennesaw	GA	USA
South East	5477	HENDERSON	Jake	Greenville	SC	USA
South West	5478	OWEN	Wesley	West Point	UT	USA
Great Lakes	5479	AYERS	Tonya	Ogden	IL	USA
Central	5480	LOVE	John	Saint Louis	MO	USA
Independent	5481	HENDERSON	Kenneth	Lumsden	Saskatchewan	CAN
South East	5482	WESTER	Julia	Tallahassee	FL	USA
South East	5483	HEDRICK	Logan	Pilot Mountain	NC	USA
South East	5484	HENDRY III	David	Hendersonville	NC	USA
South East	5485	HENDERSON	Allen	Kingsport	TN	USA
South East	5486	HENDERSON	Adam	Kingsport	TN	USA
South East	5487	WILSON, Jr.	Boyd Eli	Cary	NC	USA
South East	5488	RANDOLPH	Victoria Henderson	West Jefferson	NC	USA
South East	5489	MORSE	Kathryn Luann Henderson	Rockingham	NC	USA
South East	5490	MACE	Randall	Boone	NC	USA
South East	5491	MORRIS	Cynthia	Oak Island	NC	USA
North East	5492	HENDERSON	David	Quincy	MA	USA
Mid East	5493	DECHOW	Martha Henderson	Concord	VA	USA
Pacific	5494	HENDERSON	Andrew Ryan	Los Angeles	CA	USA

LONGEVITY AWARDS

Far South	931	HENDERSON	Craig R.	Bedford	TX	USA	25
Great Lakes	1419	ALLEN	XAVIER	ANN ARBOR	MI	USA	25
Central	2286	HENDERSON	Wallace G.	St. Louis	MO	USA	25
Far South	2291	HENDERSON	Albert C.	Burleson	TX	USA	25
Far South	2296	HENDERSON	Arthur Lee	Duncanville	TX	USA	25
Mid East	2311	FICHTER	Gary J.	Lynchburg	VA	USA	25
South East	2330	POWERS	Lee M.	Mauldin	SC	USA	25
Great Lakes	2414	EMERICK	Joan E.	Harsens Island	MI	USA	25
Mid East	2447	HENDERSON	Dr. Paul T.	Easton	PA	USA	25
Mid East	2454	CLOTHIER, Jr.	Robert L.	Newark	DE	USA	25
UK	3686	HENDERSON	Allen	Livingston, W. Lothian		UK	15
South East	4876	VASTINE	Nancy Henderson	Coral Springs	FL	USA	5
South East	4913	TRAWICK	Jared	New Port Richey	FL	USA	5
South West	4934	STRITT	Pam	Broomfield	CO	USA	5
Great Lakes	4959	BOOTHBY	Alan	Oconomowoc WI	WI	USA	5
North East	4961	HENDERSON	Richard	Geneva	NY	USA	5

CONGRATULATIONS

What Does a Chaplain Do?

“What does a chaplain do?” I was asked this question at a recent Highlands Festival. This started me thinking that this is an important question not only for chaplains but also for Clan Henderson officers and members. What, then, does a chaplain do?

Chaplains organize and lead religious services in various settings beyond traditional churches, such as prisons, hospitals, and military deployments. They provide crucial spiritual guidance and support to individuals facing challenging circumstances, whether they are detained, incarcerated, hospitalized, or serving in the armed forces. Regardless of their own faith, chaplains typically offer nondenominational services to ensure that everyone’s beliefs are respected and accommodated. They also work with individuals who consider themselves more philosophical than religious, adapting their approach to meet diverse spiritual and personal needs. In doing so, chaplains play a vital role in fostering comfort and understanding.

Likewise, a Clan Henderson Chaplain is not only responsible for all this but can be available to lead Kirk services for Highland games and provide the blessing of the clans and tartans.

The vision we have is to organize a Chaplain Corps. with at least one chaplain in every region. This means that each Regional Commissioner as well as members will invite clergy or leading lay members of Clan Henderson. The services they could provide are:

- Chaplains are representatives of religion and spirituality
- Provide religious or spiritual guidance to Clan members
- Lead, preach, and pray for the clans at Kirk services
- Offer reflective, non-judgmental listening to people going through a difficult time
- Empower people to overcome challenges and struggles
- Develop and foster connections with members
- Participate in Clan Henderson events such as Highland Festivals

I would like to encourage you to please contact me by email (chuckwoos@yahoo.com) for more information or if you're interested in joining the Clan Henderson Chaplain Corp. Your interest and participation are highly valued.

Rev. Daniel C. Henderson, PhD





An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh

Clan Henderson Society Scholarship Program Endowment Fund

On behalf of the CHS Advancement Committee I would like to ask that you consider joining me by contributing to the CHS Scholarship Program Endowment Fund.

As you know the CHS Scholarship Program has helped many students, and this program represents a meaningful way that your Society supports Scottish Culture.

Traditionally, the funds for the Scholarship Program come from the Societies operating budget. The goal of the Advancement Committee is to establish an Endowment that will fund the Scholarship Program independent of the budget. To support the Scholarship Program at current funding levels, the endowment needs to reach approximately \$125,000. Because of increasing education cost and growing number of applications, the Advancement Committee has established a long-term goal of approximately \$250,000. Today, we have approximately \$50,000 in the Endowment.

There are many ways to give including (but not limited to):

- ◆ Direct donation. You can use the CHS website to make a direct donation.
- ◆ Donation of Stocks. Direct donation of Stocks or Bonds can be made. Especially, if they are highly appreciated there may be positive tax implications for you.
- ◆ Donations from your 401k or IRA. If you are required to take annual withdrawals from your retirement fund, donating directly to the CHS Scholarship Endowment may have positive tax implications for you.
- ◆ Including CHS Scholarship Program Endowment in your estate planning.

These are just a few suggestions.

Contact a member of the Advancement Committee or any elected official to discuss how you can join in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Louis Russell

SW Region Games

Southwest Regional Games

By Christi Heston, SW Regional Commissioner

THE CORTEZ CELTIC FAIR

Clan Henderson's newest SW Region convenor, Natalie Henderson, hosted this one-day Celtic Fair event in Colorado on June 22nd. These two photos are of Kris Jones, a Clan Henderson athlete and athletic judge, and Natalie's daughter Lilian.




Kris Jones, Lilian and Natalie Henderson



The Elizabeth, CO Celtic Festival took place 18 – 19 July. With over 40 clans in attendance as well as some 30 vendors, it is becoming a “have to go to event.” This is such a lovely place to set up a tent under the cool cover of pine trees, that is, until it turns into lightening, thunder and a deluge while you’re trying to pack out on the last day all kilted up!

Robert Henderson, Colorado State Bodyguard, is joined by the newest bodyguard to Colorado, Emilio Valdez.





***Please join Clan Henderson at the Estes
Park Fairgrounds, 1209 Manford Ave, Estes
Park, Colorado 80517***

on

September 6-8, 2024

***Please join Christi Heston and Clan Henderson in the
Big Tent which is hosting all the “Border Clans” this
year.***

Beret Dernbach News

Dear Clan Henderson,

I hope that you all have had a great first half of 2024. This year has looked a little bit different for me as I have been adjusting to balancing my dancing career with being a law student. I ended up taking a full year off of competing, but continued to practice every day, and even fit in a couple of performance opportunities as well.

Performing was a great way to stay connected with highland dancing while I wasn't competing. In March, I did the Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade with a local dance group. Us highland dancers usually don't like being confused for Irish dancers, but we will gladly perform our "Scottish version of the Irish jig" at any St. Patrick's Day show, haha!



Then in April I did another parade – the New York Tartan Day Parade. I spent three days in New York and absolutely jam-packed them between sightseeing, dancing, and bagel-eating!

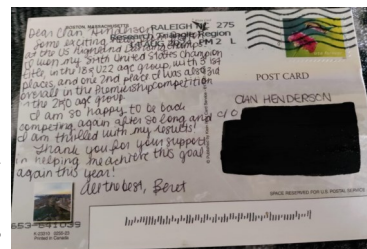
On Friday, I walked New York City whilst

over 13 miles around New sightseeing. I did a tour of the United Nations, went to the Museum of Broadway, and walked around the city to see St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, the Empire State Building, and Times Square – both during the day and lit up at night. We also had a rehearsal on Friday afternoon to prepare for our performances and the parade; the performance team was based around the US and Canada, so it was our first opportunity to practice together in person. It was amazing to see how quickly everything came together! In just a few run-throughs we were performance ready.

Saturday was a full day of dancing. We performed at Bryant Park in the morning, performing a large group choreography (which you can watch on Facebook at <https://fb.watch/sapKaSxNcV/>). In the afternoon, we paraded down 6th Avenue to a pretty large crowd – it was no Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, but the entire parade route was lined with people!



You can see a clip of our parade performance at <https://fb.watch/saq04I6srI/>, and a great video of the full parade at NYC LIVE - 26th Annual Tartan Day Parade (06 April 2024). We then walked back to the hotel and found out how much attention you get in a kilt in Times Square (a lot). I finished the day with



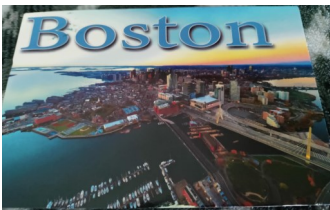
my legs up the wall to prepare for another day of dancing on Sunday!

On Sunday we took the ferry over to the Statue of Liberty to explore Liberty Island, then continued on to Ellis Island for some performances. We danced for the tourists arriving on the ferries. This show was especially fun because we were performing with other dancers from Australia and Scotland; meeting new friends is always one of the best parts of highland dancing! To wrap up my time in New York, I visited the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street, the 9/11 Memorial, and walked through Greenwich Village. On my way to the airport, I took a roundabout route to my subway stop and walked through Central Park. I really enjoyed looking at the statues around the park, including some familiar faces like Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott!

Usually when I attend competitions, I don't get to do a lot of sightseeing beyond the hotel ballroom. I would never walk a half marathon the day before a competition, or go out during the evening to visit a place like a lit-up Times Square, because I would be focused on being at peak performance. It was a nice change for this trip to have the time and opportunity to explore New York without the stress of a competition. I look forward to doing more performances as my dancing career continues, and to having these sightseeing opportunities in all of the fabulous places I get to visit!

After Tartan Day, I had to switch gears to focus on my spring semester finals, my two summer internships, and my study abroad summer term in the Netherlands. I had a great month in the Netherlands, getting to museum hop in The Hague and Amsterdam on my weekends off.

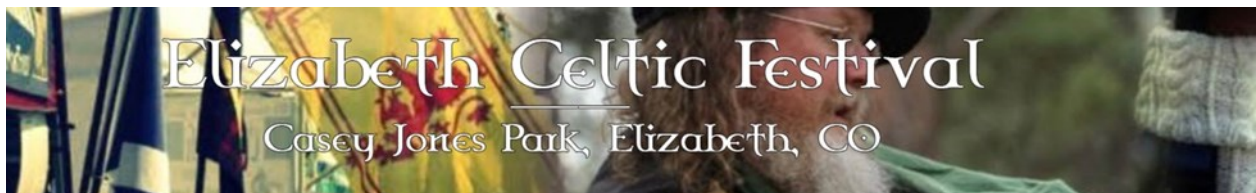
During the penultimate weekend of my study abroad program, I flew back to the US to dance at the United States Championships in Boston. On Thursday, I got to watch my dance teacher, Linda Armstrong, be inducted into the US highland dancing Hall of Fame. There is truly nobody more deserving of this honor than the world's best highland dancing teacher!



On the Friday, I competed in the SDUSA Scottish National Dance Premiership. I was thrilled to place 3rd overall in the 21 and under 26 age group. Then on Saturday I competed in the United States Inter-Regional Championships. I won my sixth US Championship title with first places in the Highland Fling, Sean Truibhas, and Reel of Tulloch, and a second place in the Sword Dance. These results were especially exciting because it was my first time competing in a full year; once the nerves wore off, it was great to be back on stage doing what I love most. Although my 2024 competition and performance season has been short, it has also been very sweet! I plan to compete and perform more this coming year, starting in October at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia – I look forward to seeing Clan Henderson at that games and others next Games season!

Things have looked a little bit different since I started law school, but my commitment to and passion for highland dancing is no different than before! Thank you for your continued support as I continue my dancing career, in an albeit modified format this year. Even though I wasn't competing, I never missed a dance lesson or practice; the scholarship funds I received went towards this training to prepare me for the events I have attended and will attend this year.

All the best,
Beret



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this year.**

**Please join Natalie Henderson, Convener, Christi Heston, SW Re-
gional Commissioner, and Clan Henderson in October at:**



Hello:
Just wanted to share. I am with Clan Elliott Convenor
Robert Elliott at Livonia's Scottish Games on 2 AUG.
25K people before noon and very hot.
Cheers,
Xavier



Xavier at Senior Drum Major at Detroit's
175th Annual Highland Games on 3 AUG

Clan Henderson South Pacific Regional



Christian Henderson South Pacific Regional Commissioner / CA Bodyguard, Clan Henderson Society
701-3735369 | hiny1970@gmail.com



The 158th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games @ Alameda County Fairgrounds will have a Clan Henderson Tent hosted by Suzanne Emerson this August 31st-Sept 1st.

Please Join me And Suzanne at tent space 31. Everyone is welcome to be apart of Clan Parade where we gather around 11 am each day .



The 45th Fresno Scottish Gathering and Games is September 21st from 8am-5pm @ Kearney Park .

Clan Henderson does not have a convener currently for this event , if you have interest in being a state convener please reach out to me .



62nd Scottish Gathering & Highland Games, Salado, TX November 10-12, 2023

Arrived early Friday afternoon and with the much-appreciated help of Clans' MacDuff and MacLellan got the tent and gear unloaded from the truck and delivered to the designated Clan Henderson location. It had rained the prior night so the parking lot and festival grounds were muddy and/or squishy. Thankfully, although the clouds remained, the rain held off the entire weekend.

I was joined at the Henderson tent with members Rowland Bartoo of Bartlett TX, Arthur & Cathy Henderson from Duncanville TX and Thomas Wright of Thorndale TX. We were able to assist other visitors in locating their "Scottish roots". Always fulfilling to make those connections.

The highlight of my weekend was presenting the Order of the Chief with Distinction to Rowland. He was awarded the Order of the Chief in 2020. Since his joining Clan Henderson Society (at this festival) in 2003 he has been an annual visitor at Salado and San Antonio, always steps up to help at the Henderson tent and on numerous occasions has filled in as Convenor when circumstances have prevented our convening.

Sue Hoffman

Con-



venor

Youth Spotlight

Slainte Mhaith Clan Henderson Members!

As Youth Director, one of my goals is to highlight the talents, contributions, and accomplishments of our young Clan Henderson members. It's my delight to share with you the achievements, goals, and the future aspirations of these young members within the Scottish Arts, and within our wonderful community.

Our very first CHS spotlight is with Gus Schnee. Please join me in congratulating Gus, as he is one of our 2024 Youth Scholarship recipients! Well done Gus!

Let me tell you a wee bit about our recent interview together:

At the young age of 16, Gus expressed his joy being a grade 3 snare drummer and band member for the North Carolina, Queen City Pipes & Drums. When asked during the interview how his interest first began, Gus explained, "I attended a Saint Patrick's Day party at a church members house. That's when my brother and I heard the piper at the event, and that was the moment when it first gained my interest."

During our interview, I found Gus to be extremely friendly, well mannered, and humble. For someone who is wrapping up his high school years, Gus has many goals and aspirations that he looks forward to in the coming future.

Upon further conversation regarding his role within the band, Gus said, "It's part of my responsibility as lead snare, to count everyone into the music." Not only does this help Gus gain confidence in his leadership role, but it also helps him to prepare to instruct others one day, as he's explained, "I would eventually like to teach snare to those starting out like I did."

When asked about having a mentor that Gus values within the community, he responded, "Jon Quigg pushes me positively and works with me on my knowledge of snare theory." One of the goals that Gus has for his future is to become well rounded within his musical field, and to move up to a Grade 1, and compete at a higher competitive level individually, as well as within his regimental group.

Gus explains that he has a close-knit bond with the members of the Queen City Pipes & Drums, and enjoys befriending those who share similar interests. His favorite Highland Game is the "Greenville Games," because it is a close venue to home. Gus has competed in parts of the US, and has even travelled to compete in Scotland on a national level with the Queen City Pipe Band.

Gus continued to talk about his experiences with continuing his education in snare and has mentioned that, "I've travelled to Ohio where I've attended parts of a summer long workshop that includes several piping and drumming instructors to help advance my technical work with snare." For Gus, his next venue that he hopes to pursue is the Winter Storm Games in Kansas City, where he can attend to have fun at the games, make connections, and challenge himself in his current competitive level.

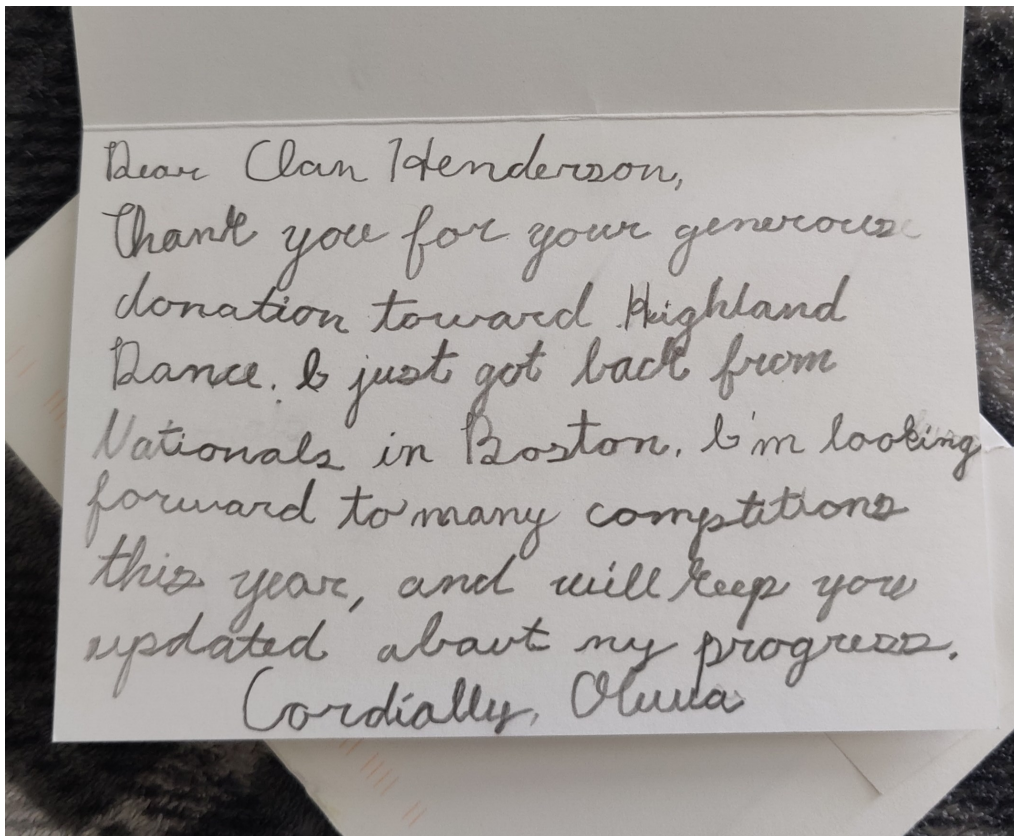
If you happen to be at the games and run into Gus, show your support by sending him a friendly hello and wish him the best of luck at his upcoming competitions. Congratulations Gus for all your hard work and many accomplishments throughout your years. Gus would like to express his gratitude for all that you do within Clan Henderson,

"Thank you for the scholarship, as well as your support" -Gus Schnee.

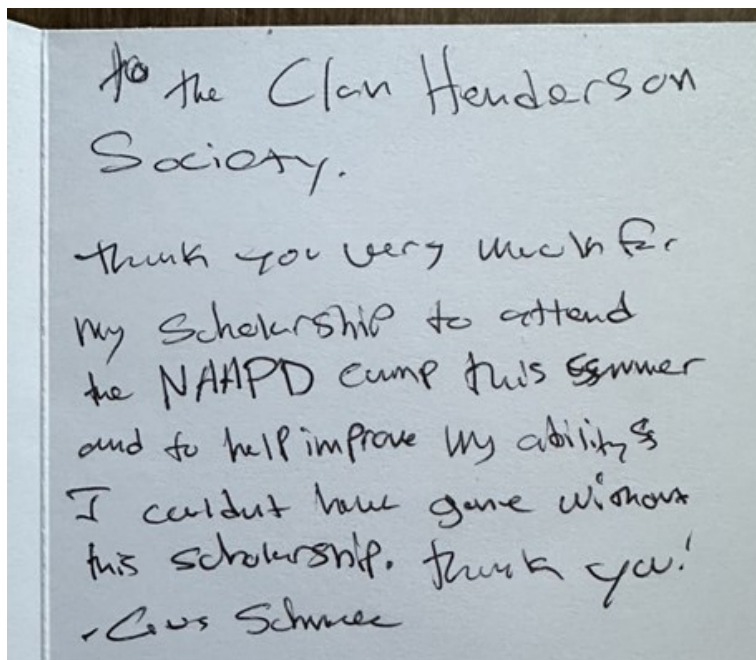
I have been personally told by many of our youth that it is an honor for them to be able to share and highlight their accomplishments with you all. I hope that the Clan Henderson Members will continue to look forward to many more Youth Spotlights in the future.

Audrey Trawick - CHS Youth Director.

Thank You from Olivia Bishop



Gus Schnee Thank You Card





Brynn Brown News by Michele Brown

The first competition was the Scottish National Premiership. This competition is open to any dancer in the world. Out of twenty-six dancers, (7 Scottish, 4 Canadians and 15 Americans) Brynn received Championship Points in the Hornpipe and the Highland Laddie. To put this into perspective: our National Champion in the USA came in third overall. The other five dancers who placed were all Scottish and Canadian. Brynn was the only American dancer to receive Championship Points in two dances! This was very exciting!

The USIR competition includes just the dancers who have placed in the top three at Regionals in the United States only. Out of twenty-one dancers, Brynn came in seventh overall. She worked hard and danced beautifully.

The next day she competed in the North American Championship. This is open to any dancer in the world. It was a total Scottish slaughter. Brynn danced technically clean and looked great but the Scottish really take the cake. There is nothing but awe and respect for all the dancers that come here to compete!

We really appreciate the Clan Henderson members who have enjoyed following her journey in this tough sport. It's been almost nine years now that we, her parents, have endured this lifestyle. We have just sat down to discuss her goals for next year. She has expressed to us that she would love to place top six in the United States in her age category. There's a lot to work on and never-ending corrections to be made. She will continue cross training and lessons four times a week up until Regionals again next May! With new steps coming out in the Fall there will be a lot of hard work going forward. I may sell a kidney in the meantime😓. Oh, I do hope that y'all find joy reading about the life of a dancer and family as you get to hear first-hand the joys and struggles from parents! We truly appreciate our clan family!



I wanted to thank Clan Henderson for their continued support of [Brynn Brown](#). She received the scholarship and put it towards dance lessons and the Marguerite Reid Memorial Workshop that will be held in Philadelphia in February of 2025.

JULY- The month of July was a busy dance month for Brynn. At the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, she danced both days. Saturday, at the Atlantic International Championship and Jig Challenge, Brynn placed . There were nine dancers total in her age category, five from Scotland and Canada. She did win the overall Jig Challenge and the dancer with the most points from North and South Carolina. On Sunday, Brynn came in third overall. I never thought that I would be praying for some rain to cool down the temperatures! The heat was killer this year!

After Grandfather Mountain, we flew to Boston for the biggest competitions of the year! There are three separate competitions at one venue in Boston. The Scottish National Premiership, The United States Inter-Regional Championship, and the North American Open Championship.



For Ceilidh reservations RSVP to Mary Lane Henderson or for more information or questions email Mary Lane at marylanehenderson1@gmail.com

Host Hotel - Hampton Inn/Daniel Island
160 Fairchild St. Charleston SC 29492

Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=CHSDIHX&groupCode=CHHCSG&arrivaldate=2024-11-01&departuredate=2024-11-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECTlawrence.potter@gmail.com> - \$149.

Friday, Nov 1, 2024

ML, Jan, and local volunteers set up tents

Computer Setup for ZOOM

Check in Hotel 3:00pm

Meet and Greet at Riverfront Park 5:00pm - Ceilidh - Food Trucks and Music

Calling of the Clans

ZOOM Meeting from the Charleston Games - case of rain, we can meet in the hotel

Conference Room

Saturday, Nov 2, 2024

Charleston Scottish Games and AGM - 8:00am-5:00pm

Ireland's Own Pub - 6:00pm - Dinner (Christopher Young-843-343-1123)

(Possibly with Clan Piper and Highland Dancers)

Sunday, Nov 3, 2024

First (Scots) Pres Church - Kirkin of the Tartan

53 Meeting St. 8:45-11:15

Restaurant (?) for Lunch Downtown

Charleston Scottish Games and AGM 2024

Meet YOUR MacEanruig Cousins
at our
Annual General Meeting

Host Hotel

\$149

Hampton Inn

Daniel Island

160 Fairchild St.

Charleston SC 29492

Booking Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=CHSDIHX&groupCode=CHHCSG&arrivaldate=2024-11-01&departuredate=2024-11-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>



Friday, Nov 1, 2024

Meet and Greet at Riverfront Park 5-9:00pm

Ceilidh - Food Trucks-Music

6:20pm Calling of the Clans

Saturday, Nov 2, 2024

Scottish Games and AGM 8:00am-5:00pm

1:00pm AGM Meeting (also ZOOM)

5:00pm Games End

6:00pm - Dinner (Ireland's Own Pub)

Sunday, Nov 3, 2024

8:45 First (Scots) Pres Church - Kirkin of the
Tartan

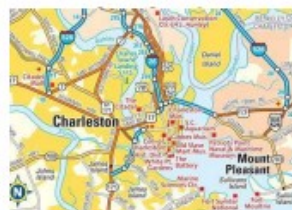
12:00pm Lunch Downtown (Optional)



ENJOY Charleston

Be a TOURIST

Come a Day Early



Carriage Guided Tour

Shopping the Market

Fort Moultrie

Fort Sumter

Patriot Point

Golf

Historical Plantations

Tea Plantation

Folly Beach

Thursday (Halloween)

Wear a costume

Ghost Walk

Haunted Carriage Tour

Changes to the Henderson DNA Project- 2024

David E Henderson- Project Administrator

Longtime members of the Henderson DNA project have been frustrated because we have struggled to find common ancestors among our DNA matches. It has recently become clear that the STR tests we used don't provide reliable evidence of connections within the genealogical timeframe. Many of us can't find records older than 200-300 years and the matches often look back 500 years.

The answer to this is the Big Y 700 test. I resisted buying this test for a long time because I had no idea what to do with the information. However, once FTDNA released a comprehensive set of tools for this test, I bit the bullet and upgraded my test. The results were quite useful because I now know that my links to my DNA matches are from before 1600. That negative result will help me avoid wasting time trying to find common ancestor with men in my family group. As more men take the Big Y, I still have hope that I will find someone on my branch.

If you are part of the Henderson DNA Project, you may have seen changes to your Family Group designation. When James Henderson started this project over a decade ago, we assigned family groups with letters and numbers that were chosen without any real system. Now that about a quarter of the men in the project have taken the Big Y test, it is see all these men relate to each other. We have over 130 Big Y tests and almost 90 unique male lines identified by their haplogroup, the specific single nucleotide mutations they inherited from their father's line (SNP's).

New family groups were created to reflect the Big Y results using a combination of letters and numbers. The letters chosen for each group reflect ancient mutations shared within each group. Thus all the families with the H letter have a common mutation named R-DF13 which has a common ancestor around 2550 BCE. The group is subdivided with additional letters for more recent branches, and the numbers that follow the letter further divide the groups. We believe the system will be robust as more men are tested and as new haplogroup mutations are identified.

The most useful feature of the new groups is that they tell you which matches are useful for genealogy and which to ignore. The last number in each letter group tells you how far in the past the group formed. So higher numbers mean more recent connections. If you look at the group R-HD, you will find 5 subgroups. Men in R-HD-4 are related but the common ancestor is more distant than men in R-HD-5.

An example of the power of the new test results comes from the Fordell group. We have 14 men whose DNA shows they are descendants of the Fordell Henderson male line. Before the Big Y data, we had no way to know more than that they all shared a common ancestor. The Big Y test has divided these men into three groups. One group, H-1-1 has a mutation dating to around 1400 CE. There is enough information on the Fordell Henderson that it may be possible to identify which person started this branch. The second

group, H-1-2 is the line that runs through Sir James and Sir John and to Chief Alistair. They have a mutation that occurred between 1500 and 1600 CE. The third group is part of the same line as H-1-2 but have an additional mutation that occurred between 1800 and 1900CE. The third group has the possibility of identifying their Fordell ancestors through genealogical records. Also, the fact that Chief Alistair does not have the recent mutation means the third group is connected through an uncle of the main line who lived around 1800.

I hope this information will encourage more of you to upgrade your test to Big Y or to join the project with the Big Y test. FTDNA has sales on a regular basis, often around holidays. If you have already done the Big Y test, I encourage you to log in and explore the tools under Discovery. My favorite is the Time Tree that shows when you connect to the various matches to your DNA. Also, as more people take the Big Y test, new haplogroups will be identified. Most of us have SNP mutations, identified as private variants. When a second man is tested with the same variant, FTDNA creates a new haplogroup for it and names it. This means the DNA project will continue to evolve.

Do you have a Henderson genealogy query?
Just send it to
hendersonclannews@gmail.com
For inclusion in An Canach.



Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson
Alistair D. Henderson of Fordell
PO Box 3070 Stafford DC
QLD 4053 Australia
chief@fordell.email

Counsellor
C. Fred Sanford,
FSA Scot
520 Dogwood Road
Statesville, NC 28677
704-878-6094
cfsnfrd@gmail.com

Tanist
Iain M. Henderson
Younger of Fordell
Brisbane, Australia

Dave Henderson,
PE, FSA Scot
1013 Traders Trail
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-556-6345
killedsgtma@gmail.com

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2024

Induction into the Order of the Chief is awarded for recognition of service to the Clan or Society, especially as it pertains to the goals of the Society. Ideally, recipients are members of the Society but under special circumstances need not be. Recipients are presented with a **Chief's Medal adorned with a green ribbon.**

BROWN Kirsten Is commended for exceptional and exemplary service while going above and beyond in assisting within the booth at multiple festivals across Oklahoma and Texas. She has assisted multiple visitors with family research, any additional information that may be requested and help with joining Clan Henderson. She is a shining example to the next generation of our Clan.

CLEMMONS James for outstanding service while enthusiastically assisting at festivals, especially in setting up and taking down our hospitality tents. Additionally, he represents our Clan as an athlete and is a big asset to Scottish culture, as underscored by his participation as a member of the Highlanders Pipes and Drums.

EMERSON Katherine for her professional-like and enthusiastic assistance with developing and improving the Clan Henderson webpage. Her technical acumen and intellectual prowess have helped the Society improve its modern presence and has helped increase our impact on others.

MALLETTE Ellen for outstanding service while enthusiastically assisting at festivals and routinely demonstrating a high degree of enthusiasm for Scottish culture and traditions. Additionally, she represents our Clan as an athlete and is a participating member of the Highlanders Pipes and Drums.

SCHULTZ Ashley for exceptional and exemplary service to the Far South Region. She routinely goes above and beyond in assisting at multiple festivals across Oklahoma and Texas. In the last 5 years she enthusiastically explored her genealogy, showed a great desire to learn more. As a hospitality hostess she has shown great energy and routinely continues to assist others with research and additional information.



Once inducted into the Chief's Order, advancement is possible for recognition of continuing service to the Clan or Society, especially as it pertains to the goals of the Society. The recipient must have been inducted and awarded a Chief's Medal previously. Unlike initial induction into the Order, the recipient must be an active member of the Society or active at the time of death (posthumous). To show advancement within The Order, the Chief's medal is upgraded with a blue & yellow ribbon. Members inducted into the Order of the Chief, with Distinction-2024

HENDERSON Christian is awarded the **Order of the Chief, with Distinction**, in recognition of his energetic leadership and high degree of enthusiasm for all things Scottish. He continues to make significant contributions to local organizations, community youth programs and with his overall support of the Clan Henderson Society. He exemplifies what a leader in our Society should be. Inducted into the Order in 2023.

TRAWICK Audrey is awarded the **Order of the Chief, with Distinction**, in recognition of her leadership and enthusiasm while serving as Chair, Youth Scholarships Committee. Her direction, guidance and enthusiasm ensure the vital role of scholarships as a major goal of our organization continues to serve as an example of how things should be done. Inducted into the Order in 2023.

AN CANACH DEADLINES FOR 2024

Publish by: Dec. 2, 2024
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Please send to

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At any time.

**If you are late please let me know how much space (# words and pictures)
you will need and I will plan accordingly.**

**Thanks to all Aye,
Lawrence Henderson, An Canach Editor**

Visit the Clan Henderson Website!
`clanhendersonsociety.com`



Facebook Also has up to date activities of the Henderson Clan see link below:

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**Lawrence James
Henderson
2541 Loomis Street
Lakewood, CA 90712**

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